

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-45 are pending in this application. Claims 18-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,625,757 to Kageyama et al. (herein "Kageyama") in view of U.S. patent 5,603,060 to Weinberger et al. (herein "Weinberger"). Claims 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 31, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,768,516 to Sugishima in view of Weinberger. Claims 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sugishima in view of Weinberger as applied to claims 18 and 26, and further in view of U.S. patent 5,991,846 to Ooki. Claims 34-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kageyama in view of Weinberger. Claims 34, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sugishima in view of Weinberger. Claims 35, 38, 41, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sugishima in view of Weinberger as applied to claims 34, 37, 40, and 43, and further in view of Ooki.

Addressing now each of the outstanding rejections, each of the outstanding rejections is traversed by the present response.

Each of the outstanding rejections relies upon the teachings in Weinberger to disclose an operation of storing "a graphic layout of an operation panel of all of the plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to said computer network." It is respectfully submitted that such a feature is in fact not taught or suggested in Weinberger.

Further, applicants point out that the effect of the above-noted feature of storing "a graphic layout of an operation of panel of all of the plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to said computer network" is that a new image forming function can be registered newly to the server. More specifically, the server of the claimed invention has a feature of

storing information items associated with image forming inherent to all of the plurality of image forming apparatuses. The above-mentioned information items include graphic layouts of operation panels of all of the plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to the network. Also, this server receives requirements for image forming from the client computer. Such requirements from the client computer are part of and covered by the information items stored in the server. As a result, when an image forming apparatus is newly installed under the environment of the network, new image forming functions are registered in the server. Such a feature is neither taught nor suggested by any of the applied art.

As noted above, the outstanding rejections rely upon the teachings in Weinberger to disclose an operation of storing "a graphic layout of an operation panel of all of the plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to said computer network". The outstanding Office Action specifically states:

Weinberger discloses a print system that allows a user to access a functional replica of the operation panel of copiers from a remote location, wherein a copy of the control panel information is maintained at a data collection computer (which reads on a server) (16) (column 13, lines 24-54). . . . It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kageyama by the teaching of Weinberger in order to allow an experienced person to do actual machine conditions first-hand as disclosed by Weinberger in column 13, lines 40-45.¹

A similar rationale is also provided with respect to the other rejections also utilizing the teachings in Weinberger. However, the above-noted grounds for the outstanding rejections itself indicates that each of the features recited in the claims is not being fully considered.

Specifically, applicants accept that Weinberger discloses one operation in which information of a control panel from one remote copier can be stored in the data collection computer 16. Specifically, Weinberger discloses that in a real-time monitoring mode, in which the data collection computer is focusing in on a particular copier 2, the user can view

¹ Office Action of September 26, 2003, page 3, lines 9-17.

an actual representation of the copier control panel 12 on the CRT screen of the data collection computer 16.² However, the claims require different and further operations than as noted above in Weinberger.

Specifically, the claims require an operation of storing “a graphic layout of an operation panel of *all of the plurality* of image forming apparatuses connected to said computer network” (emphasis added). That is, as clearly recited in the claims, *each* image forming apparatus connected to the computer network has a graphic layout of its operation panel stored. Weinberger clearly does not teach or suggest that feature as Weinberger at most discloses storing data information of *only one particular focused on copier* in a specific real-time monitoring mode, and again applicants draw attention to Weinberger at column 12, line 60, et seq.

In contrast to the teachings in Weinberger, in the claimed invention the graphical layout of *each* image forming apparatus on the network is stored so that a user can access each graphical layout information. Weinberger cannot operate in that matter as in Weinberger only in a real-time mode information directed to a display of only one particular copier is accessible.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding rejections, which are each based on the teachings in Weinberger, have not fully considered each of the claim limitations relative to the teachings in Weinberger. Clearly, the claims require limitations not disclosed or suggested in Weinberger.

Also, applicants note that the object of the device of Weinberger is for “monitoring the operation status of one or more copier machines from a remote location”, as noted at column 2, lines 7-9. In such ways in Weinberger the viewing of the operation panel on a PC is an operation to locally monitor user operations on a copier. However, with such an

² See specifically Weinberger et al at column 12, lines 60-64 and at column 13, lines 24-27.

operation Weinberger does not even allow a possibility of manipulating an operation panel of a copier from the PC.

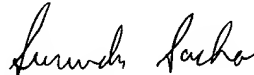
In such ways, each of the outstanding rejections is traversed by the present response. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that each of Claims 18-44 is allowable over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number
22850



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
GJM/SNS/cja

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